

## Can an Act Become Law by Joint Rule of the General Assembly.

The object of committees of conference in legislative bodies is that they may consider and report upon cases of difference between the two houses. They have not the authority themselves to adjust such differences. That must be done by the houses respectively. Committees can only consider matter referred to them. The conference committee, like other committees, recommends; the Houses adopt. This applies equally to the conferences called simple and to free conferences. Each is simply to discuss propositions submitted to them, to weigh proposed modifications and report back the substance of what is said or agreed to to the houses for their action. They have no right to conclude anything of a legislative character upon their own authority. When the committee of free conference reported to the House of Representatives the last day of the session before the recess that they could come to no agreement with the Senate committee, we were surprised that the Speaker ruled that their labors were ended, and that the bill upon which the houses differed so widely would become a law, whether the House agreed to recede from its amendments or not. It must be remembered that the Senate proposed to vote \$150,000 for legislative expenses, and the House by amendment cut it down to \$130,000; that the Senate fixed upon the sum of \$10,000 for its contingent fund, and the House raised it to \$2,000. In the language of the Governor, "the Act in its present form has been dignified, and is not disapproved by one member. Its final passage is due wholly to a joint rule of the General Assembly." But what joint rule can set aside the requirement of the Constitution, that "no bill shall have the force of law until it shall have been read three times, and on three several days in each house?" The concurrence of the two bodies must be had before anything can become law. It cannot be presumed or inferred, but must be directly expressed. The Constitution confers the right upon each house to determine its rule of proceeding, but it nowhere contemplates that a law can be any process be evolved out of such rules. We have not examined the rules of the House of Representatives of South Carolina, but the interpretation put upon them by the decision of the Speaker in the case under review, must either be very much strained, or these rules must have been loosely or designedly drawn. They can be made to obstruct one house or the other out of its legislative rights, and thus contravene or evade the will of the people. The recent decision seems to be strongly opposed to the dictum of Cushing, which is good common sense, certainly: "The great purpose of all rules and forms is to subserve the will of the assembly rather than to restrain it; to facilitate, and not to obstruct, the expression of their deliberate sense."

## Cul Bonoi

President Grant's proclamation against the people of Mississippi, wherein he commands "disorderly and turbulent persons to disperse," &c., is very much like the Pope's bull against the comet. There are no disorderly persons whom it can reach. There are no persons resisting the law, and hence there is no occasion to threaten troops as against insurgents. Even if there were, there is a State Government with its forces, State militia, commander-in-chief, &c. It is its business to see to the execution of law, and to exhaust all proper efforts in this direction, before calling upon the Federal Government to interfere. Governor Ames confesses the weakness and failure of the State Government in his piteous appeal to the President. "The great merit and chief beauty of the Republican theory," says the New York Herald well says in discussing this complication, "is that the Government, being the free choice of a majority of the people, will always have the preponderant physical strength of the community on its side, and is, therefore, self-sustaining, except in very extraordinary emergencies. If an insurrection should spring up in one of the Counties of New York or Massachusetts, it is inconceivable that the Governor would make such a disgraceful display of imbecility as to assemble the Legislature and apply for Federal assistance as the first step towards its suppression." There can be no reason except the will of an irresponsible power for proceeding diffi-

rently in the one case from the other. In fact, there is no turbulence and no insurrection. The attack on Vicksburg was successfully repelled. The negro Sheriff resigned his office and cannot resume it for the same reason that he resigned it, namely, that he could not give the required bond. By a law of the State, if he fail to give such bond, within a certain time, his office becomes vacant. In his inflammatory address to the citizens of Warren County, when he urged them to march on Vicksburg, he makes himself out a martyr, of course, but does not show that he can meet the requirements of the law as regards his bond. Does the President mean to re-instate him over the people whom he has defrauded and bolster him in the office which he cannot legally fill by the bayonets of the Government?

**REMEDIES FOR FRAUDULENT VOTING.** There are two measures suggested as remedies. One of them is that obvious means of relief, a registry law. It has many considerations to recommend it. If honestly carried out, it would secure an orderly and fair election. Its provisions can be evaded, of course, but only by a great deal of care and good management. The mere fact that every voter's name is set down before hand, with the place of his residence, and that he comes forward and votes and is checked off the roll, affords a great deal of security. It is only by filling the registry with false names and residences, as well as procuring repeaters to impersonate the fictitious citizens, that the fraud can be accomplished. Such a complicated piece of rascality ought to be very easy to detect, and has not been carried out successfully in very many places. Perhaps the election of 1872 in Philadelphia offers the worst example of the breaking down of the registry known in our political history. The argument against a registry law in Indiana, however, is the argument from experience, and that certainly is not an easy one to meet. It is urged that the law has been tried and found to be a failure. The second measure proposed has so many advantages connected with it, and affords grounds for so few objections, that probably no one would think of opposing its adoption. It is merely the reduction of the voting precincts to reasonable limits. With smaller precincts, the presence of repeaters could be more readily detected, and the votes could be counted on the evening of election before the public attention was wearied, and before any of the judges were exhausted with protracted wakefulness.

[Indianapolis Sentinel, 14th.

**A PLAIN MORAL.**—"The plain moral of it all is that public companies should stand upon their own feet, and that they have no more right to be supported at the expense of the taxpayers than newspapers or any other description of private property. We hope Congress will not fail to remember this when Tom Scott's huge job is brought before it. 'No more subsidies'—an excellent motto for this Congress and for all that are still to come."

[New York Times.

And "the plain moral" of the above is Tom Scott wants subsidies for a Southern railroad—the Southern Pacific Railroad. If he was about asking Congress for a grant to aid anything of the kind North, your opinion about "public companies standing upon their own feet" would, no doubt, be different. Having bled the Treasury out of millions upon millions in building the Central and Northern Pacific Railroads, in building custom houses and post offices at every town wanting them, and squandered enough in other public enterprises to pay off the national debt, you now commence crying out economy so soon as the South asks for a little aid in building a canal from the Tennessee River and a railroad from Texas to the Pacific Ocean.—Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel.

**THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.**—An effort is being made to restore the franking privilege. The Presidential election is coming on, and members of Congress are anxious to invoke the free aid of the mails in the distribution of political matter. In a speech in Indiana, the other night, Mr. D. W. Voorhees made the statement that previous to the passage of the bill to abolish the franking privilege, the Postmaster-General addressed a circular letter to every postmaster in the United States, asking that the amount of mail matter free of postage delivered from each office for the space of six months, and the amount of postage which would have been derived from the same if it had been prepaid, should be reported to the Post Office Department. In this way it was shown that the Government was annually transporting \$2,600,000 worth of postal matter without receiving a dollar of revenue therefrom. We cannot see why members of Congress should send letters and documents free through the mails any more than anybody else. This is a country where we have no preferred classes of people.

**KILLED.**—At a fair held at John Anderson's, in the upper part of Greenville County, on Christmas night, Enoch Pool threw a rock at Caleb McBoe, which struck him on the head, breaking the skull about four inches, when he fell and died about midnight. All colored. Enoch Pool left for parts unknown.

Henry Clay describes a male as "an animal that has no pride of ancestry and no hope of posterity."

## Citizens' Meeting.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of colored citizens of Columbia was held at Oantwell's Hall, on the night of the 28th. Bro. Williams was called to the chair, and Nelson Glover requested to act as Secretary. The Chairman stated to the meeting that the colored citizens of Richland, having heard that their old and tried friend, Col. J. G. Gibbs, contemplated returning to the State, and that he was a candidate for the office of "Inspector of Phosphates," that they felt it their duty, as well as pleasure, to aid him by all the means in their power. The following persons made speeches of the most complimentary character concerning Col. Gibbs and his well-remembered services to the people of the State: Jas. Lamfield, Isaac Black, J. R. Trice, N. E. Edwards and W. J. Thomas.

The following resolutions, presented by W. J. Thomas, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, information has reached us that Col. J. G. Gibbs has applied for the appointment of "Inspector of Phosphates;" and whereas, the qualification of Col. Gibbs for the position he desires is unquestionable, being by profession qualified to discharge its duties efficiently; and whereas, Mr. Gibbs has by many acts, official and individual, entitled himself to our warmest regard and esteem as the friend of the colored people; and whereas, this meeting represents the colored people of Columbia; therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That we commend Col. J. G. Gibbs to his Excellency, Governor Chamberlain as a gentleman of character, and whose appointment will reflect favorably on his administration, and whose scientific attainments peculiarly fit him for the position.

**Resolved,** That we respectfully urge his Excellency to appoint Col. Gibbs Inspector of Phosphates.

**Resolved,** That a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to convey the above preamble and resolutions to his Excellency the Governor.

**Resolved,** That the city papers be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

Under the third resolution, the following committee was appointed: W. J. Thomas, W. M. Hayne, N. E. Edwards, J. R. Trice, Isaac Black.

The life of the factory girl is a hard one. The great clamorous West demands men and leaves to the East a population drained of bone and sinew, with more women than men to fight the hard battle of life. Girls must earn the bread which sustains them in Massachusetts, and the story of the Lowell operatives has become an old one. From morning till night, the weary spinners work and upon a pittance strive to secure the necessities and comforts which make life endurable. It is not wonderful that they seek to exchange the hard struggle for a life of ease and rest when they can do so rightly, and proof of their strength and virtue that so few of them yield to evil temptation. They seek to make the best of things as they are and to assert their rights as they may. A typical girl was she who, discouraged and indignant, answered the other day her boarding house keeper who was lamenting the fate of a boarder who had married a grocer of limited means. Said this brave and logical mill girl: "What's the use of talking? You feed us on bull-beef at \$4 a week, and then expect us to be contented angels!"

Detroit has a policeman who has thoroughly studied human nature and who has a heart full of kindness. When he sees a lady fall he steps forward and picks her up in the most graceful manner. Realizing her embarrassment, he remarks: "No one but myself witnessed the accident, madam. Those boys are laughing about a thing which happened here two days ago. It is very pleasant for a bad day, madam. Your folks are all well, I hope? Lots of people buying Santa Claus presents just now. The boys are laughing because a bald-headed man fell down. Boys will laugh, you know, when they are tickled. Wish to take the car, madam? Well, good day. You can rest assured that no one saw you fall. Some ladies strike on their head, but you only stumbled, madam—a mere graceful stumble."

**TAXATION IN NEW YORK CITY.**—The Board of Apportionment of New York city met on Saturday, and took final action upon the local budget for 1875. The net amount, after deducting city revenue, is, in round numbers, \$34,000,000, representing a rate of taxation equal to about three per cent. This includes about \$800,000 appropriated on behalf of charitable institutions and corporate schools, which, under the amended Constitution, it is extremely doubtful whether the city will have the power to pay. Of this immense sum, \$9,300,000 is required for interest on the city debt.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CHARLESTON,** December 28—Judge Bryan presiding. It was ordered in each of the following cases, violations of internal revenue laws, United States against Oscar Geisburg, J. B. Marks, B. J. Ramage, J. B. & W. J. Rodgers, J. A. Witford and A. M. Wither, that the penalty and costs in this case, now in the registry of the court, be paid by the Clerk, as follows: The penalty to C. L. Anderson, Esq., Collector of Internal Revenue, for the use of the United States, and costs to the officers of the Court entitled thereto.

Subscribe for the PHOENIX.

**CANNIBALISM IN MEXICO.**—A queer story of cannibalism comes from the romantic mountain region of Oahuahu, in Mexico, the loveliest of lands, where "every prospect pleases, and only man is vile." It is a land where nature has provided everything that the heart of the most exacting epicure could desire—fruits in richest profusion and game of all kinds. The climate is superb—one might imagine it a country which would produce a race of demi-gods, rather than a race of cannibals. Yet here is the story, reported to be true by numerous American correspondents. The Spaniards have a saying that some stories may well be made to wait in quarantine before they are believed, and one of the correspondents gives this caution with regard to the following, which he, nevertheless, relates: The alcalde of a small village in Oahuahu had been for some months observed to meet his friends late at night at a house in the outskirts of the town, for supper and a genial outpouring of wit. The principal dish at these gatherings was usually compound of the savory flesh of swine or kids. To this there could be no possible objection; and the alcalde, being the principal authority of the place, was naturally free from any questions concerning the late hours and strange orgies which he and his cronies were said to indulge in. But one day a neighbor, an Indian woman, missed her little three-year-old child, and at once, in Mexican-Indian fashion, began to accuse every one in the vicinity of sorcery. She had already selected several unfortunate as agents in her child's sudden disappearance, and one or more of them would doubtless have been burned alive, had not another, and still another, and yet another neighbor, on succeeding days, reported the losses of their tender infants. Great excitement ensued; and at last suspicion fell upon the midnight suppers of the alcalde and his companions. The "political chief" of the section was summoned. Armed with his superior authority, he penetrated the secrecy of the alcalde's mystic rendezvous, and there discovered the heads and bones of thirteen children. The alcalde confessed that the missing infants had been barbecued or roasted whole, and the cannibals, ere they were hanged—for speedy vengeance was their portion—told the political chief, with fiendish joy, that "had he ever tasted the roast, he would have joined the infernal association." This story all the respectable papers of the City of Mexico vouch for, and the children in Oahuahu are not allowed to leave their parents' houses even to play about the doors.

**A VALUABLE MEDICAL TREATISE.**—Hostetter's United States Almanac for 1875 for distribution, gratis, throughout the United States and all civilized countries of the Western hemisphere, will be published about the first of January, in the English, German, French, Norwegian, Welsh, Swedish, Holland, Bohemian and Spanish languages, and all who wish to understand the true philosophy of health should read and ponder the valuable suggestions it contains. In addition to an admirable medical treatise on the causes, prevention and cure of a great variety of diseases, it embraces a large amount of information interesting to the merchant, the mechanic, the miner, the farmer, the planter and the professional man; and the calculations have been made for such meridians and latitudes as are most suitable for a correct and comprehensive National Calendar.

The nature, uses and extraordinary sanitary effects of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the staple tonic and alterative of more than half the Christian world, are fully set forth in its pages, which are also interspersed with pictorial illustrations, valuable recipes for the household and farm, humorous anecdotes, and other instructive and amusing reading matter, original and selected. Among the Annuals to appear with the opening of the year, this will be one of the most useful, and may be had for the asking. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburgh, Pa., on receipt of a two-cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood. The Bitters are sold in every city, town and village, and are extensively used throughout the entire civilized world. Dec 25/31

The novelty of Charleston, S. C., for the next few weeks is the great reduction in our prices of all kinds of Dry Goods, Carpets, Oil Cloths, &c., at the popular house of Furehott & Co., who, it is known, keep the largest and best selected stock of above-named goods at the lowest possible prices. Country orders entrusted to them are filled with the greatest care and dispatch. If goods are not satisfactory, money will be returned. Samples sent on application. Remit per Express or Post Office Order, or goods will be sent C. O. D. All retail orders over \$10 will be sent free of charge. N 294

People will get married, and most of us do not have but one chance, so do it up in style. Moreover, it is a poor compliment to your friends to invite them to your wedding with a shabby invitation. The invitation is your bow; it introduces the life of the new couple, and should be in the best style. Walker, Evans & Cogswell, Charleston, S. C., have all the finest styles of paper, cards, &c., and execute the work in the highest style of the art. Send to them for samples and prices. N 294

A mother-in-law is not a heavenly body, but she has often eclipsed a honeymoon.

**SCHENCK'S MANDRAKE PILLS** will be found to possess those qualities necessary to the total eradication of all bilious attacks, prompt to start the secretions of the liver, and give healthy tone to the entire system. Indeed, it is no ordinary discovery in medical science to have invented a remedy for these stubborn complaints, which develop all the results produced by a heretofore free use of calomel, a mineral justly dreaded by mankind, and acknowledged to be destructive in the extreme to the human system. That the properties of certain vegetables comprise all the virtues of calomel, without its injurious tendencies, is now an admitted fact, rendered indisputable by scientific researches; and those who use the Mandrake Pills will be fully satisfied that the best medicines are those provided by nature in the common herbs and roots of the fields. These pills open the bowels and correct all bilious derangements without salivation or any of the injurious effects of calomel or other poisons. The secretion of bile is promoted by these pills, as will be seen by the altered color of the stools, and disappearing of the yellow complexion and cleansing of the tongue. Ample directions for use accompany each box of pills. Prepared only by J. H. Schenck & Son, at their principal office, corner Sixth and Arch streets, Philadelphia, and for sale by all druggists and dealers. Price 25 cents per box. Dec 31/13

An aged citizen of Arkansas went into the rooms of the Congressional Committee in Little Rock to tell Judge Poland that since reconstruction in 1868 Arkansas has had sixteen Governors. He complained that it wasn't safe for a man to live there; that he himself was rather slow in his mental operations, and scarcely got his mind made up to support one Governor, when they sprang another on him and made him liable to arrest for treason. He said every time he came to town he asked men on the outskirts who was Governor on that particular day, lest he might make a mistake in hurrying for the unpopular one. After relieving his mind of a little more dry humor, he left, but presently returned, asking permission to make a correction in his statement. It was seventeen Governors, he said, instead of sixteen—he had remembered another one while he was going down stairs.

**THE CURSE OF ALCOHOL.**—In training for great muscular exertions, ardent spirits are strictly prohibited. Those who think alcohol produces strength, and who call temperance people fanatics, should ponder the remark of the great brute, Tom Sayers, who, when preparing for a great prize-fight, was asked: "Well, Thomas, I suppose you use plenty of beefsteak, London porter and pale ale?" The boxer replied: "In my time I have drunk more than was good for me; but when I have business to do, there's nothing like water and the dumb-bells." After retiring from "business," he took to drink, and died a sot. Cold water made him a Sam-on; alcohol laid him in his grave.

The *Advertiser* says it is proposed to start a joint stock company in Savannah for "the manufacture of stores, cooking and parlor, and ornamental grates, and other designs in iron, with a capital stock of \$20,000, \$10,000 of which has already been secured in the form of patterns, designs, tools and the mechanical agencies necessary to the successful operation of the manufactory. The other \$10,000 will be required to carry on the business until it shall have been an assured success. Experienced men, several of whom are mechanics in Savannah, and one of whom is a master workman and a capitalist in Albany, New York, have taken hold of the idea."

A writer in the *Woman's Journal*, published in London, says: "There is growing up in England a large class of women who do not marry, who apparently wish not to marry. They deliberately devote themselves to literature, to teaching, to some trade, generally an artistic one, at any rate to some occupation that gives a livelihood, and tends to culture, and this they choose for life. The marrying instinct seems dead, or rather never to have been born in them. They do not seem to be thought of as out of place, but, on the contrary, they move into fit places in the great societal organism easily and naturally, and are accepted without remark."

Louisiana has again been made the victim of fraud. A returning board, packed with the corrupt partisans of the Kellogg administration, has thrown out enough Democratic votes to give the Radicals a majority in the Legislature and to elect the Radical State ticket. Moreover, the Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, who received a majority of 3,500 votes, has been declared defeated by 1,500 majority. The Democrats are also cheated, by illegal manipulation of the returns, of several members of the Congressional delegation. Gen. Grant declares that he will sustain the infamy with United States bayonets, and the people are forced to submit to this monstrous outrage upon their rights.

Maria is a very popular name in Illinois. When a cat climbs a back fence in a well-populated neighborhood, and plaintively calls out "Maria!" twenty or thirty windows are hastily thrown up, from which protrude twenty or thirty female heads wildly answering "What?"

A French preacher describes hell as a place where they talk politics all day. What they do at night he does not report.

**CITY MATTERS.**—Subscribe for the PHOENIX—don't borrow.

Subscribe for the PHOENIX.

Reading matter on every page.

"Music of the spheres"—The clicking of billiard balls.

Transient advertisements and notices must be paid for in advance.

And now the business men, having had their Xmas fun, are arranging for a holiday on New Years.

It is the last week in December, and yet we sit at work by an open window, through which a breeze comes in most refreshingly.

It will be observed that all the banks will be closed for business on Friday next, the 1st of January, it being a legal holiday.

Old type metal, at 25 cents a pound, can be obtained at the PHOENIX office, for small quantities; 20 cents by the 100 pounds—delivered at the depot.

Job printing of every kind, from a miniature visiting card to a four-sheet poster, turned out, at short notice, from PHOENIX office. Try us.

Notices in the local column are charged for at the rate of fifteen cents a line, for nine lines or more. Less than that space, \$1. All local reference to advertisements charged for.

The grand masquerade ball of the German Schuetzen-Verein will be given on Wednesday evening, the 13th of January, 1875—just two weeks from to-day. Those who propose to participate should be making arrangements for costume, &c.

We acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to the second grand ball of the Phoenix Hook and Ladder Company, to be held at Parker's Hall, Thursday evening, December 31, 1874, upon which occasion the light fantastic toe will trip the old year out and the new year in.

The testimonial of the colored people made in favor of Colonel James G. Gibbs, is a gratifying proof that they are not ungrateful for kindness and favors. The recommendation of Mr. Gibbs for the office of Inspector of Phosphates to the consideration of the Governor, is one which, we doubt not, he will take into proper consideration. The qualifications for the post, and his efficiency in every field of action, are undisputed.

Largest selection of imported cigars at the Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

Crackers—eating and fire—can be obtained at Hardy Solomon's grocery.

Choice brands of champagne and other wines at Hardy Solomon's.

Palmetto fine cut tobacco is the best in the city, and can be procured only at the Indian Squaw Cigar Store.

Best imported Partagas, eight for one dollar, at Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

Promptness and attention are the rules at Hardy Solomon's grocery establishment.

Give Hardy Solomon a trial, if you want anything in the grocery line. His stock is fresh.

Anything and everything in the grocery line at Hardy Solomon's.

Brandy fruits, preserves, jellies, jams, etc., at Hardy Solomon's grocery.

**THE NEW POSTAGE LAW.**—On the first of January, 1875, the new postage law—requiring pre-payment at the office of publication for all papers sent outside of the County—goes into effect. Residents of Richland County receive their papers free of postage. Subscribers to the DAILY PHOENIX will, therefore, enclose the postage with their subscription, which will be as follows: One year, 50 cents; six months, 25 cents; three months, 15 cents; one month, 10 cents. TRI-WEEKLY, one year, 30 cents; six months, 15 cents; three months, 10 cents. WEEKLY GLEANER, one year, 20 cents; six months, 10 cents; three months, 5 cents. Where the postage is not sent with the subscription, the time will be shortened to that extent. The new rates of postage are less than half of the old.

**MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.**—Northern mail opens 5.30 A. M., 3 P. M.; closes 11 A. M., 6 P. M. Charleston opens 8 A. M., 5.30 P. M.; closes 8 A. M., 6 P. M. Western opens 6 A. M., 1 P. M.; closes 6, 1.30 P. M. Greenville opens 5.45 P. M.; closes 6 A. M. Wilmington opens 4 P. M.; closes 10.30 A. M. On Sunday open from 2.30 to 3.30 P. M.

**LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.** Meeting Columbia Chapter. Columbia Schuetzen Verein. J. B. Palmer—Stockholders' Meeting. J. H. Sawyer—Notice. Dividend Central National Bank. Geo. D. Hope—For Sale. L. N. Z. May—Notice. D. C. Peikotto & Sons—Auction.

Many an enamored pair have courted in poetry and lived in prose.